



NEW HAVEN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS



Lysie Rodriguez
Program Administrator, New Haven Board of Education

Good evening Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Lysie Rodriguez and I am the Program Administrator of the five (5) Family Resource Centers in the New Haven Board of Education. I would like to thank you in advance for allowing and listening to me to tonight.

As you have heard tonight Ct was the first state to initiate, fund, and demonstrate the feasibility of Family Resource Center's (FRC) directly linked to the local public school system. In New Haven the FRC's are housed in an elementary school primary in title 1 schools. We cater to the population and needs of the school and its community.

The Family Resource Centers offer an array of services from parenting programs, childcare, family literacy initiatives, adult education, home visitation and child development screening with referrals to the CT Birth-to-Three program, home childcare provider support, and school readiness support. We provide the services and resources that help a family and if we don't provide the resources we refer them to other agencies that can help them.

I come tonight to ask you not to consolidate our funding into a competitive block grant (Student Support Service grant), but instead maintain the FRC line item within the SDE budget and to maintain funding at the current level of \$8,051,914 (just over \$100,000/site). We continuously must present ourselves in front of the board to plead for funding. Each time we demonstrate what we've accomplished and continue to accomplish. We have not let you down as you have continued to support to us. Many families will be affected if this consolidation takes place. These families will loose the programs and resources offered for free by the FRC's. The Family Resource Center's are the bridge that connects the school to the home. The FRC's are uniquely created and designed to meet the needs of the school, community and the families.

Lastly, I would like to read to you a testimony of a family enrolled in the Hill Central School Family Resource Center.

Lysie Rodriguez



New Haven School Change

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS